### **UMRA Family History Interest Group**

### Family Letters

Lynn C. Anderson & Craig Swan
University of Minnesota Retirees Association
April 28, 2021 10:00- 11:00 am

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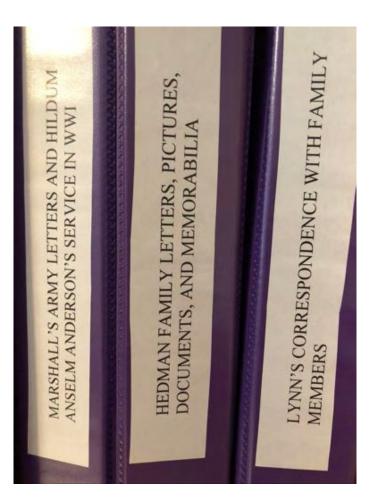
and in a table when the strongs angles , you find a line was bother and the strong which it does

Hickory had I had her had from the

#### Binders of letters, emails, memorabilia



## Organized by people and dates, documents in plastic sleeves



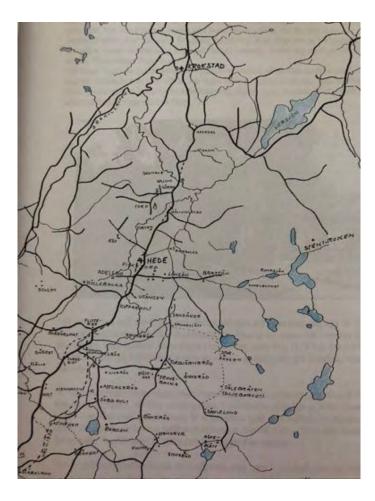
#### Comprehensive collection by people and date

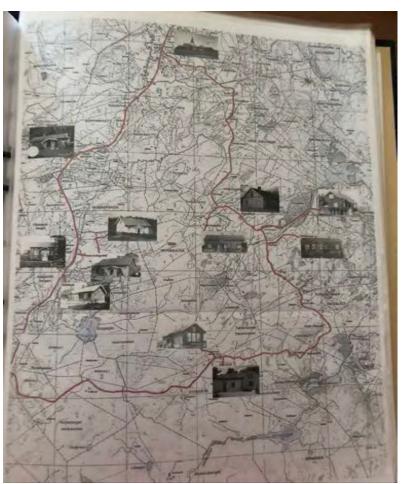


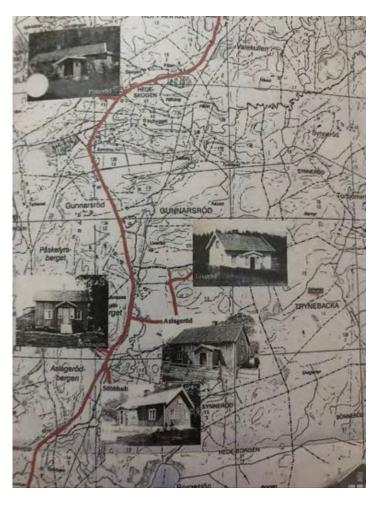
## Original letters in Swedish from and to my great grandparents, Anna and Axel Hedman

l Alskade elboder!

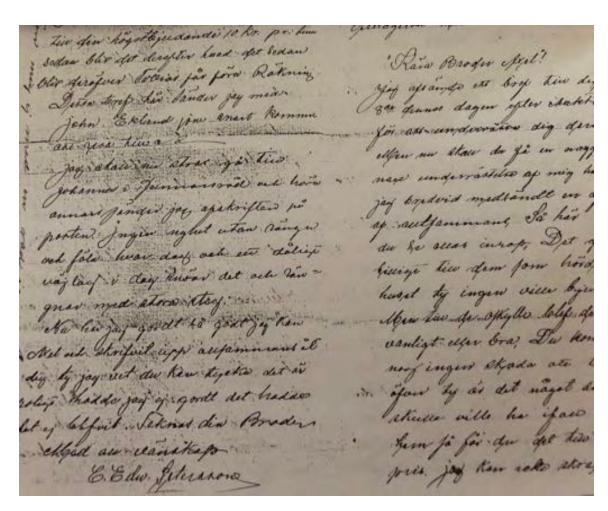
### In one binder a map was included showing the various family homesteads in Sweden

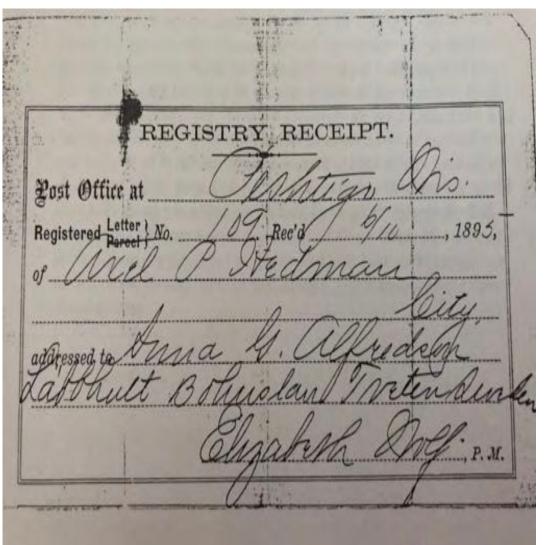






## Original Swedish letter with US post office receipt (keep these interesting artifacts).





## Original context for letters provided in Swedish and then translated into English

#### DEL 2: BREV HEMIFRAN

Når Anna och Axel bosatt sig i Peshtigo, Wisconsin, borjade en omfattande brevväxling. Anna var flitig brevskriverska medan Axel i första hand boll kontakten med sina bröder efter att modern Marta Stina gått bort år 1900.

Annas föräldrar Alfred och Annalena skrev många brev liksom Annas alla syskon. På Axels sida var det bröderna Johannes, Edvard och Gustav som skrev.

I fortsättningen har jag valt att först berätta med hjälp av breven från släkten på Annas sida och i ett senare skede berätta utifrån breven på Axels sida.

De brev som Anna och Axel skrev hem finns inte bevarade, men genom att brevskrivare i Sverige kommenterade vad som stått i Annas och Axels brev, får vi en hel del information även den vägen.

Innan jag tar tag i breven känns det angeläget att berätta något om gården Trynebacka och familjen som bodde där. Trynebacka var vid sekelskiftet 1700/1800 en stor kronogård och benämndes Kronohemman eller 1 mantal Russhäll. Den omfattade förutom de gårdar som idag benämns Trynebacka även åtminstone delar av Torbjörneröd och Sålelanden.

År 1824 beslot Konglig Majestät att försälja en fjärdedel av gården till arrendatorn (åbon) Jonas Olsson och en fjärdedel till arrendatorn Johan Andersson. Det högtidliga dokumentet lyder sålunda: (se sid 2)

Wi, Président, Vice-Président och Ledamöter utt Kongl. Maj:ts och Rikets Kamar-Collegium; Göre weterligt, at såsom Hans Kongl. Maj:t, Wår Allernådigste Koming, genom utfärdad Förordning af then 21 Februarii 1789 och Kungörelse af then 24 Januarii 1790, i Nåder behagat uplifwa och förnya Kongl. Förordningen af then 19 Septembris År 1723, samt således Allernödigst förklarat, hvilka Krono-Hemman och Lägenheter måge til Skatte forsåljas, och huru thermed forhállas bor, samt hwad therwid kommer at i akt tagas, sásom ock at sjelfwa Köpebrefwen af Kongl. Kamar-Collegio skola utfardas; Altså och til underdanigst följe theraf, hafwa Wi welat upláta och försalja, efter som Wi harmed, och i kraft af thetia Wart opna Bref, på Hans Kongl. Maj: ts War Allernödigste Konungs, mågnar uplåte och försalje til Åboen Jonas Olsson Ett Fjerdedels Mantal Krono af efterskrifne hemman i Hee Socken och Sörbyggdens Hårad af Götheborgs och Bohus Lan, namnligen Trynebacka om En Halft Mantal, indelt till Rusthalls Stam Nº 124 vid 2<sup>dre</sup> Majorens Compagnie och Bohus Läns Regemente Under Skattemanna Bord och Rattighet at njuta och behålla för Tolf Riksdaler Femion Skillinger - Rundstycken Banco, dem han, enligt hit insandt Original Ovittence af den 12 Januarii innevarande är uti Lanets Ränteri under en Summa of 24 Ruks 30 Sr Banco, riktigt erlagt och betalt

#### Translation page 1 "The Story Of Anna And Axel" part 3.

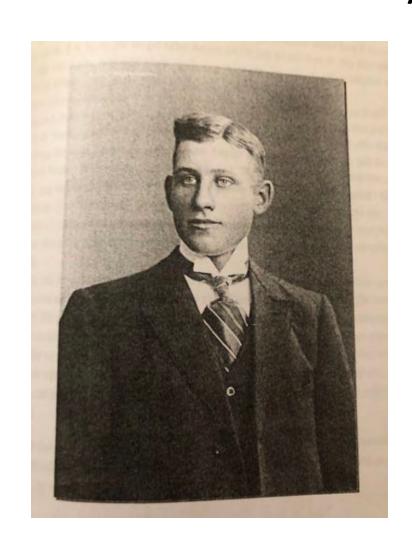
In the end of part 2 we have mentioned that we might give out a part 3. Due do many reasons this has not happened. Lots of letters are waiting for to let the story continue. The nephew Siv has meanwhile put down much work in going through letters and documents and we are glad she wants to complete part 3 based on these letters and also on many pictures and what she has been told during many visits in the USA. /Leif & Suzanne

#### PART 3: MORE LETTERS FROM HOME

I have choosen t the most interesting letters from the year 1911 till 1922 and completed with my own short text in between. All writers have at least one original-copy inserted. Some original-copies show only one or two pages due to space. I have transcribed the text and put it in *Italic* and sometimes I have explained the letters where the dialect and the handwriting might be hard to read for a person not familiar to it. These explanations come directly after the original text. Sometimes I have inserted a bracket with an explanation to the word in those letters that are not completely explained. Letters in English or Norwegian are translated to Swedish. Part 3 consists, besides 97 letters and 5 postcards also about 85 pictures and photos from family albums from both Sweden, Norway and America. Many of the family pictures from 1921 are also kept in the Bohuslan Museum Photo Archive.

On page 148 is a map showing the new road built passing by Söbbhult and Aslageröd, drawn in 193

Pictures included in the books of letters. Also included a note from my great-grandmother on the envelope that the letter took 12 days to arrive.





## Translations of letters into English along with images of parts of the original letters.

Söbbhult March 22, 1891.

Dearly Beloved and Unforgettable Childhood Friend Axel Pettersson.

I may today take the pen in my hand to with joy and much greatfulnes answer your very welcome letter, that I got the 15°. In which I to my great joy see that you have a good health, that is very good letter, that I got the 15°. In which I to my great joy see that you have a good health, that is very good letter, that I got the 15°. In which I to my great joy see that you have a good health, that is very good to hear. And the same good thing is up till this day given to me. On Sunday I was alone home from to hear. And the little ones. And when Britta came home she said I would have something fun if I waited for a moment but I could never have thought It was a letter from my childhood friend. Yes, which you, thank you for it. I heard in your letter you had sent a letter and portrait this fall, but I have not received that. And it was said to hear as it is both effort and a cost for you, but if you could be of that great kindness to send me one again I would think it would be pretty nice. I thought you had gotten it. Yes, I remember everytime I see Kasen how kind you were. And how fun we many times had. Yes, I remember when you went away how bad I thought It was. I had ment to wish you good luck, but It was impossible. I remember so well when you had left I went to Uveröd in an errand. And when I went back I saw you go away across the field. I didn't know of anything worse.

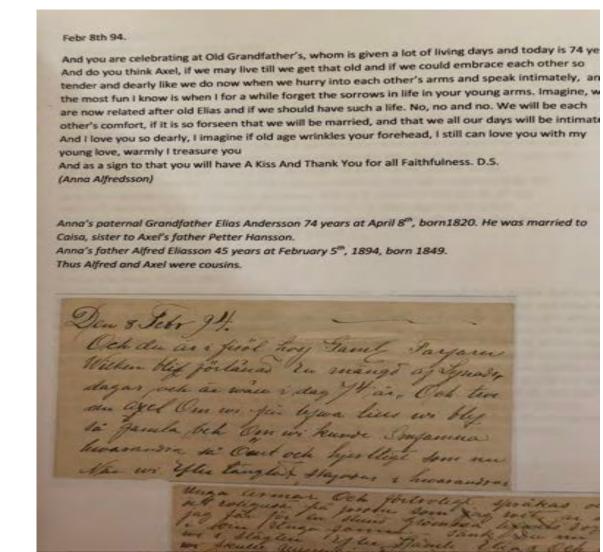
Today is communion, today is nice weather. And we have gotten a fine chuch, I can tell you, that you have never seen (built 1887). Grandfather asked me to greet you if we write to you soon. And Olaus's Christina has gotten a little Sofia. Yes, such bad things are around much. Here many has died recently. Gustaf in Blydemyrshagen amongst others, as you might have heard. Well, now you have had your birthday (24 yrs on Feb 28). Live glad and satisfied in the first boom of youth. Yes, now I am soon 18 years old. Times fly by so fast. Yes, I remember the jolly childhood. Now it is seldom anything funny, I think. Now it is only working and striving. But is is good to be at home. And have the noble freedom, as they say. Now mother calls: go for potatoes, Anna. Now I have been for potatoes. And fed the pigs (food for dinner) so now I am free for a while again. I was in Aslageröd on Friday night. My little cousins (Fredrik 5 and Justina 4) were well and glad.

We have Bohuslans Tidning (The Bohuslan Paper) this year, and in there it tells about the accidents happening in America. It says, amongst other things, they are building a house in Chickago that is supposed to be 20 stories high, you might have heard. Yes, I hope you have, up till this day, been protected from the accidents. And my heartfelt wish is that you will be protected. And Johannes in Myrehagen has came home and is so-so in his mind. He had, amongst other things, said that August in Synneröd was the kindest man in America because he had put soles under his boots, he says he is a President. Bose-August is married to Siljebergen's daughter. And what more shall I say. I got 7 portraits for the money and 67 are left. What kind of houses do they have down there in the big forests to be in at night, and so on. And do you see many predators. Hereby I might end my childish writing for this time. Sincerely, one amongst your Youth Friends, Anna Alfredsdotter.

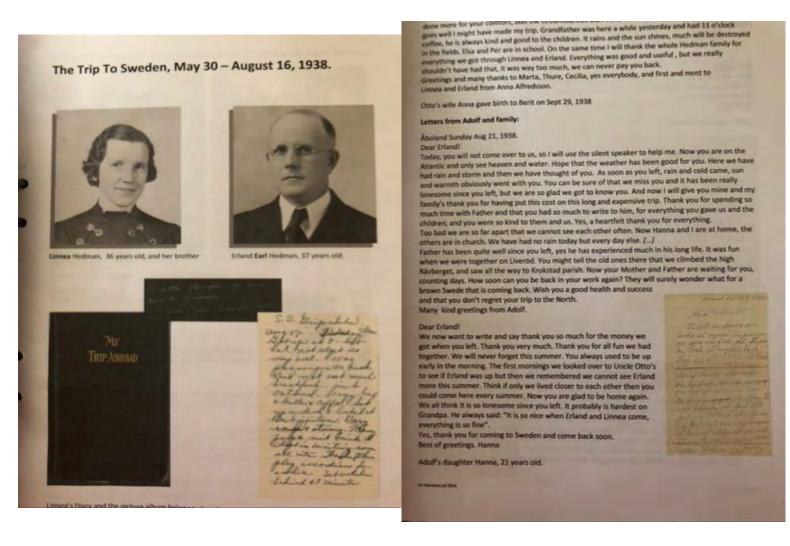
Forget me not, I will never forget you, you faraway being childhood friend Axel P. Write whenever you feel for it. Asks a Youth Friend A.G.

nd A.G. Might be the picture she mentionits.

MARIA LUNDBÄCK



# More focused binder of letters and pictures from a trip my great aunt and uncle took back to Sweden in 1938.





Letters in Swedish from and to relatives in Sweden, yet to be translated. Fun to have stamps. Note German censorship on letter on the far right.



Context for and letters my great uncle received from his girlfriend during their 40+ year relationship. They could not marry since he was Lutheran and she was Jewish.

#### EARL HEDMAN

#### SUMMARY OF LETTERS AND CARDS FROM ANN

Ann was a part of Earl's life for decades and he could have destroyed these items if he didn't want anyone to know about Ann.

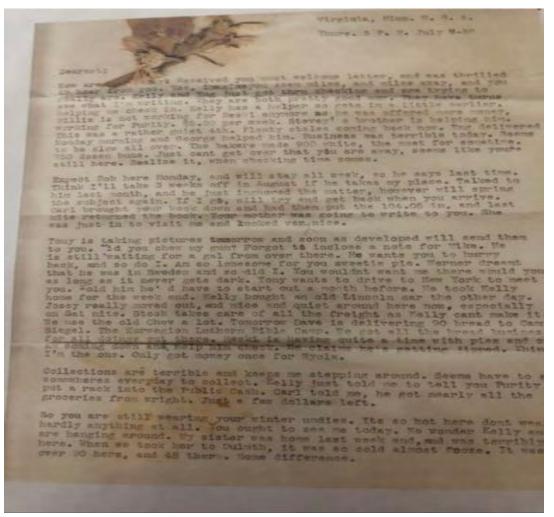
They never married because of religious differences. We were told she was Jewish.

It's really sad as Earl would have been a wonderful husband and father. They could have enjoyed a life together instead of living a secret relationship. No one seems to know Ann's last name and Cel said she couldn't remember it either.

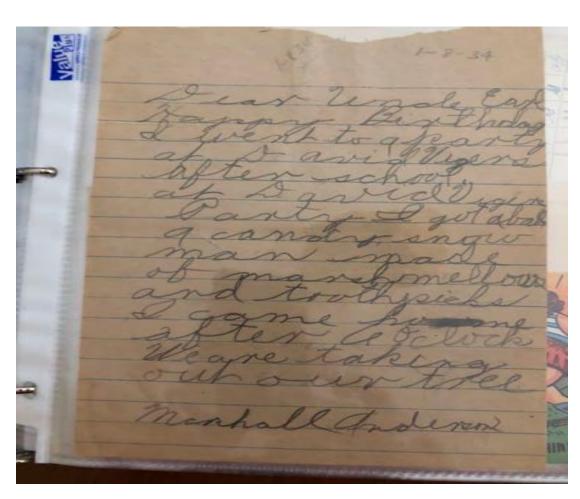
The letters are dated from 1938 until 1979, the year Earl died. Reading the 1938 letter, it appears the relationship didn't just start, so it could have continued far more than the 41 years indicated by these letters.

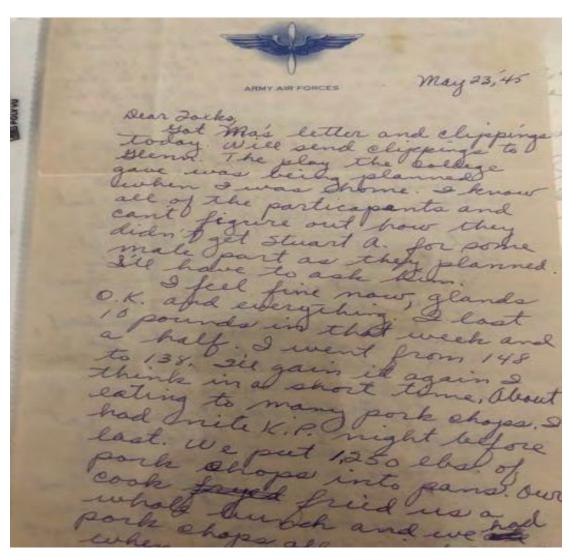
One wonders if it was family and/or community prejudice that led to this sort of relationship.

This does not diminish the admiration we had for Earl and it helps us to understand his lifestyle.

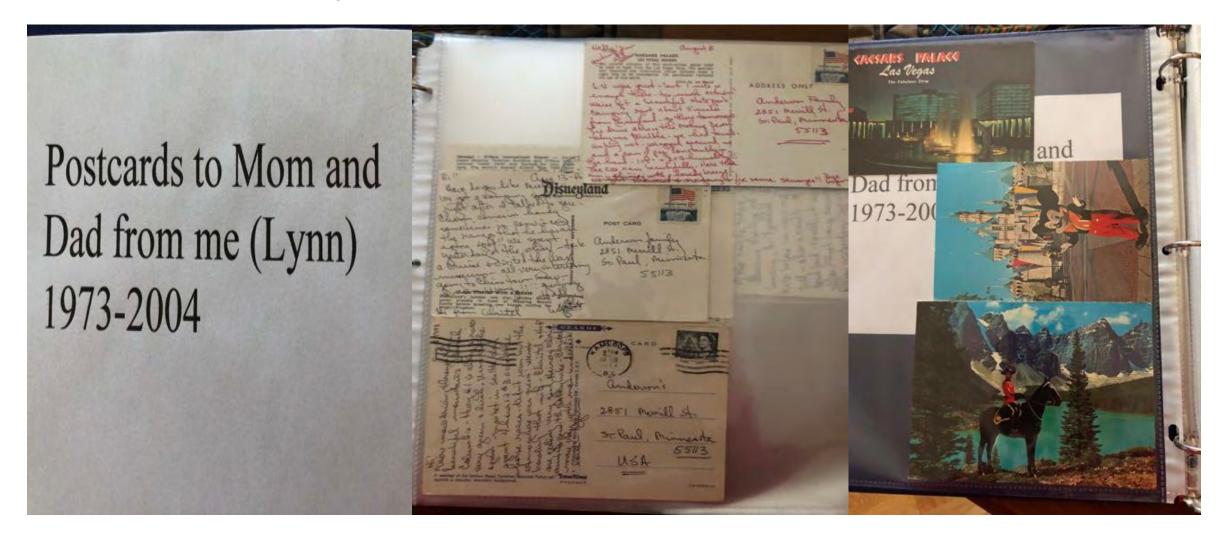


### A letter my Dad wrote to his uncle when Dad was 7 years old and his letters from his service in WWII.





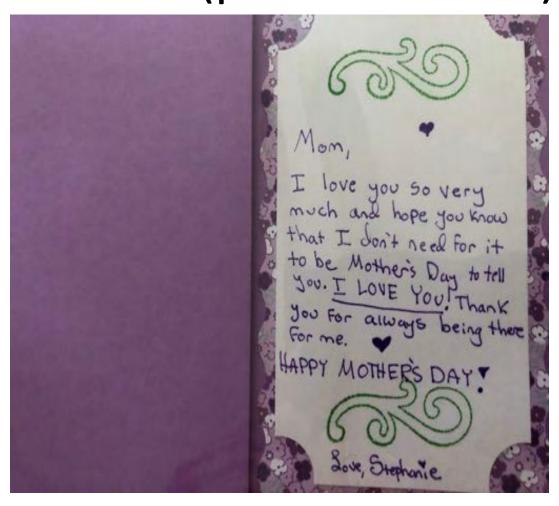
## Simple binder of postcards I sent to my parents (secured in plastic sleeves).

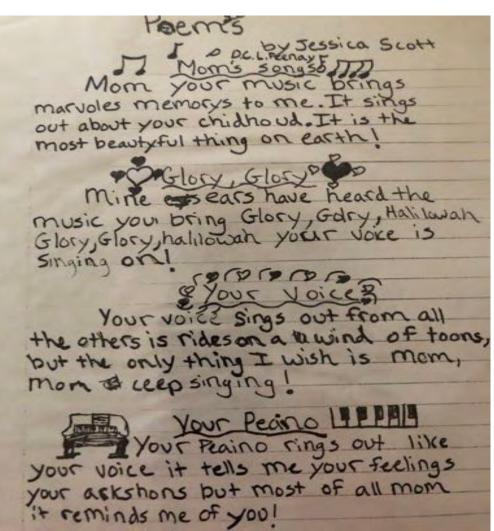


### Emails are the letters of today, often with pictures. These are in binders in plastic sleeves.



### Cards and poems organized by sender in binders (plastic sleeves).





#### Summary thoughts

- Decide how to divide up and organize your letters, postcards, emails, memorabilia: by person, dates, events/travels, other?
- Use plastic sleeves (archival if you wish/can) and binders or make copies and print books.
- Include stamps, envelopes, etc. if interesting and if there is space;-)
- Include photos, maps, context.
- Work with relatives or others to get translations of letters not written in English.
- Enjoy re-reading the documents as you go.



Ancestral Cottage

Scotland

1330 Broadmoor Drive East, Seattle, Washington 98112

Dear Craig,

I'm sending you a picture of a little Irish cottage that Aunt Vic Muff tells me was the home of former Swan descendants. She asked me about it after Mother died and my sister and I were going through our family's house and trying to find the proper resting places for former Swan and Roberts memorabilia.

I'll ask Aunt Vic to tell you about this picture. She says that you are the one most interested in Swan history. It's sort of amazing that I happened to have saved it. I thought it was cute and because it was framed, figured that it was something more than a little picture that Mother and Dad might have picked up on a trip to Ireland. I'm happy to learn of your interest in your family back-ground. The Swans were and are quite a group. It is your branch of that family which is so ably carrying on what was so well started.

If you are ever in the Seattle area, I hope you will give us a chance to meet you and your family. We see your parents occasionally and therefore know a little about you. But it would be so nice to really get to know you. I don't really know what you'd call my relation-ship to you. Is it first cousin--once removed? Sounds pretty remote but I'd like a chance to make something more of it.

Sincerely,

Field Raberto Jordan

### MRS. M. F. JORDAN

#### 1330 Broadmoor Drive East, Seattle, Washington 98112

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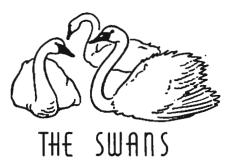
The are dies -

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Sincerely,

Field Raberto Jordan



Mession Rausae Tebruary 18-1973

Dear Janet and Craig

Tiret of all, Iwant to congratulate you on the arrival of your son, andrew Craig, whose arrival war November first, I believe. I am sure he is very much an individual by this time, and gets more so each I haven't heard detaile about your family reunion at Christmeetime but an very sure who was the center of the party! I am writing especially at this time to explain about the picture you have received from Ruth Roberts Jordan. It is the original picture sent to my father (your great grand father, George Swan,) I had it inth other family pictures and

#### ESTABLISHED 1878 BY GEORGE AND ANTOINETTE SWAN



Letterhead used by

the eight children of

George and Antoinette Swan

for their round-robin letter

I am writing especially at this time to explain about the picture you have received from Kuth Roberte Jordan. It is the original picture sent to my father (your great grand father, George Swan,) I had it with other family pretures and

It was the Swan home in the glasgour area in Scotland, and we always knew it as the birthplace of our grand father James Swan. The boy leaning on the care was a cousin of our fathers, who later lived in the house, We had a picture of him with his wife and two children - and in that picture, he was also leaning on the Con Our father used to get letters from him and another cousin from Scotland, and they always intrigued us as children. most of them were outlined in black reporting the death of some relative. Dam sorry some of them weren't preserved.



#### CHRISTMAS 1985

Dear Alice:

There is a little history to give you along with the "Hearts and Darts" quilt, and while I am not an author of note, I shall attempt to set down a few pertinent facts.

The original quilt was created lovingly for your great grandmother and great grandfather, Bessie Park McIntosh and Will McIntosh as a wedding gift to them, (October 17, 1904 in Colorado Springs), by Bessie's sister, Belle Grierson, in Canada.

My two sisters, Marian and Jean, and I remember it being on our bed when we were very young. Then there was a long period that it seemed to have disappeared. We always wondered what had happened to it. Suddenly, one day in 1970, in Santa Cruz, California, the three of us were looking at a disreputable drab patchwork quilt being used to cover the hood of Jean's car, and happened to notice some pink peaking through a rip in the quilt. We quickly ripped the cover to find the lost quilt.

Our mother had put together a wool top from sample blocks of material from a tailor's book of samples--and had covered the very frayed and faded hearts and darts quilt so it would still be of some use. We needed heavy comforters in Aspen in the winter--and this was heavy and warm.

In February of 1977 I went to Santa Cruz to take care of Walter Davis while your Aunt Allene was in the hospital for emergency surgery. Of course I took the quilt pieces along to work on them. All the pieces were neatly cut and in a box. When my time there was completed, Grandfather drove down to bring me home. He carried numerous articles out to put in the car, including the box of patches, and placed them on the roof of the car to free a hand to open the door. Somehow the box was left on top of the car without our knowing--and away we went. Several cars honked at us as they passed, but we paid no attention. Finally--after we had driven over the mountains and were half way home, a car passed and they pointed to the back of our car. We stopped to investigate and there was the box of quilt makings on the back of the car. It had blown down over the slanting back window and was resting precariously in the depression which framed the window. We were utterly weak, thinking how nearly we had lost it. We never could have imagined what had happened to it.

Dear Victoria your letter came yesterday just " in dian starting for Grandy Center Ant Bella is recovering I Wacke got the griffe our fairly well The rest and all well Hourt Sarah, phic pays there is aw etidemic, of Colds up there just now, went they are fairly soule. We also had litters from Homietta James + odethe this week. They all

January 18, 1906 George Swan to his daughter Victoria

Now Wielman wer were pleased to

yet your places letter and glad.

to know that your are loyal to

your home folds & church.

Loyally will win the respect and esteem of the best propple work hand but be pure not to Meruraki, Keep legulan hours make get too intimate.

ett is much better in any Case, to be able To perform) (more) Than The fromme better to climb the hell slowly and be sure that every step is sure and right than sevamble to the top for there is danger of a descent

Friendship is the same . The best is that which grows and goes on ever

### **Beach House**

East Newport
Beach

California

early 1920s



Newport Beach Calif. Aug. 17. 1942.

Hrs K.Swan 1200, The Alsmeda Berkeley Calif.

Dear Mrs Swan;

With a statement enclosed for window shades, the City passed an ordenance demanding all windows faceing the ocean be blacked out, and your shades were in a bad condition and would not pass, the realestate people called me and I went down and measured the windows then went shoping to see where I could do the best, all the places wanted thirteen to fourteen dollars so I finally found a place where I got them for \$1056 by useing the old rollers so I came back and got them and saved over three dollars.

I had been expecting the tenants to complain about the shades for they were realy bad and being odd lengths they cost more, so there wasn't anything left to do but get them, as there is a heavy fine with imprisonment for all who fail to comply with the ordanance.

I paid for them, so if I did wrong you can tell me, but I was afraid I wouldent be able to get a letter to you and back in time, hopeing I did the right thing I am.

Yours Truly

Newport Beach Calif. Aug. 17. 1942.

Mrs K.Swan I200, The Alameda Berkeley Calif.

Dear Mrs Swan;

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Yours Truly

Dr. and Mrs. Carl Weston Fisher request the honour of your presence at the marriage of their daughter Janet Lynne Mr. Craig Eliot Swan on Saturday, the twentieth of February one thousand nine hundred and sixty five at three o'clock in the afternoon Arlington Community Church Berkeley, California

2/14/65 At Work

Dear Aunt Bettie

Just looked on the Wedding invatation last night and saw that a reply was requested. We will be there with bells etc. Also for reception. This machine doesn't spell wery well as it is used to writing "take 4 times daily as directed" and not much else.

Must go to work- several

Rxs cmen came in.

See you all the 20th

Love bill

## Letter from

my Mother's childhood friend following the death of my parents

and I had a nostalgic time Kelalling many old seener and deip with they & Eligt. My Un you may know, Kay & Z and collège (as rommatic in in an apt in grad school.) at the apt. as grads Koy & & were cought in the Rossevelt Bank Holiday "
Without funds for groceries. Eliot

I his feat brothers took up a Collection,

Here are just a few viguettes: Dancing at the ala ambassade Hotel to Suy Lombardo

the desert, another linkage began then.

For give an old lady's maunderings but all the recall is of wonderful (over)

at the apt. as grads Kay & & were cought in the Rossevelt Bank Heliday "
Without funds for groceries. Eliot

I his feat brothers took up a Collection,

going starry-eyed to D. F. to hear Norman Thomas debate & deciding to bote for him

the desert, another linkage began

Folgine an old lady's maunderings but all the recall is of wonderful (over) at the apt as grads Koy & & were cought in the Rossevelt Bank Holiday "
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It the apt. as grads Kay & & were Cought in the Rossevelt Bank Heliday" without funds for groceries, Elist I his feat brother took up a collection,

For give an old lady's maunderings but all the recall is of wonderful

(over)

At the apt as grads Koy & & were The kainy might Eliot Came kumming down to the apt., slipped on the West side well i lyok two front teller. He come to the doss - a bloody mess - and key momptly Ment in and theew-up!



duck by a great blasse from within, and heard the ball UESTIONS and DISCUSSIONS and Agreed king of something - doubt left sery suice that was being cooked at the kitchen.

preficin grew open we that Legeaster's boshites is one was about to depart, when another old woman, very plainly dreped, but got, comfortable, and with a cheerful tweekle in her eyes, came in through the rich and looked curiously at me. I'm repeated apparition of the faitle by no means bude its localist guide) had still an aprecable effect in modifying my ideas of an in Stitutein, which I had supposed to be of a stere and monastic character. The asked whether I wished I see the Hospital and baid that the Porter, whose office it was to attend to visiters, was dead, and would be leavied that very day, to that the whole estab as I could have fouried in a Paluer of ancient times who might likewise have corre a trivilar costeeme. The little room was carpeted and reatly farmes hed, a portrait of its accupant was houging on the wall; and on a table were two doords cropped, one probably his over buttle-weaper; and the other, which I dien

half out of the Scubband, had an invention on the